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“Disarm as We Say, Not As We Do”

**The U.S. Went to War to Disarm Iraq of Weapons of Mass Destruction.
We Shouldn't Re-Arm With New U.S. Weapons of Mass Destruction.**

May 13, 2003

Dear Colleague:

A primary reason for sending 300,000 American men and women to Iraq was to disarm the Iraqi regime of weapons of mass destruction. This decision was rationalized by the central component of the President's National Security Strategy: to deter and prevent other nations from acquiring or developing new weapons of mass destruction.

The President's efforts to counter weapons of mass destruction could be undermined, and subject to charges of hypocrisy, if efforts to develop new U.S. weapons of mass destruction proceed. Alarming, these self-damaging efforts are coming out of the President's own Department of Energy.

The President's FY2004 budget requests a total of \$21 million for “advanced concept” studies for potential new nuclear warhead designs, and for development of a robust nuclear earth penetrator weapon, which could incorporate a new nuclear weapon.

To put international pressure on Iran, the Administration is asking the International Atomic Energy Agency to declare that Iran is violating its obligations under the Nuclear-Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT). The U.S. is also a party to the NPT and is committed under Article VI to reduce its reliance on nuclear weapons. Pursuit of new U.S. nuclear weapons would violate our obligation, and undercut our efforts to limit Iran's nuclear ambitions.

An effective non-proliferation policy will require a clear, consistent and credible message of zero tolerance for new weapons of mass destruction. Congress can help this effort by ensuring that the zero tolerance standard we ask of others is the standard we set for ourselves. Congress should reject funding for new nuclear weapons.

Sincerely,

Tom Allen
Member of Congress